(c) the steps being taken to ensure that prices of edible oils do not rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) According to third advance estimates, the production of oilseeds during the year 2002-2003 has been estimated to be 155.7 lakh tonnes as against the production of 204.6 lakh tonnes during 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) The domestic supply of edible oil is short of demand which is being met through the import of edible oils. The import of edible oil during the current year *i.e.* 2002-2003 is 36.17 lakh metric tonnes (April, 2002 to Jan. 2003) and is likely to be at par with last year *i.e.* about 42 lakh tonnes.

(d) and (e) In order to meet the demand and supply gap, the import of edible oil has been kept under OGL. This is done with a view to make available the edible oil to the consumers at reasonable price. Recently the import duty on RBD Palm oil has been reduced from 85 per cent to 70 per cent.

Development of Golden Rice

5108. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any vitamin "A" enriched new golden rice variety has been developed to prevent blindness;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to popularise the variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) The vitamin 'A' enriched golden rice variety in indica rices suitable for growing in Indian conditions has not yet been developed.

(b) As stated above, the golden rice in indica background has not yet been developed. However, earlier vitamin 'A' enriched golden rice has been developed by Prof. Ingo Potrykus of Switzerland in collaboration with Prof. Peter Beyer of Germany through genetic engineering in the background of Japonica rice, *i.e.* Taipei 309. The transfer of golden rice trait, *i.e.* beta-carotene biosynthetic genes to Indian rice varieties has been initiated at Directorate of Rice Research, Hyderabad and other centres such as Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and University of Delhi, South Campus.

(c) As the golden rice with Beta-Carotene rice endosperm has not yet been developed in indica background, the question of its popularization at this stage does not arise.

Foodgrain for Rajasthan as famine relief

†5109. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of wheats or other foodgrains are available in the Central Food Stores;

(b) the quantum of foodgrains allocated to Rajasthan as famine relief, so far;

(c) whether any per capita limit is set for wheat to be provided by the Centre to famine affected States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) Adequate quantities of wheat are available in the Central Pool. For the current drought in Rajasthan, 74 worst affected blocks in the State have universal coverage of all willing rural house-holds with one person from each house-hold getting employment for 10 days a month till July, 2003, @ 8 kg per person per day of foodgrains, with the balance between the cost of foodgrains and minimum wage being paid by the State Government in cash. All other blocks provide employment @ 6 kg per person per day, with other conditions remaining the same. On this basis, 21 lakh MTs have been allocated to the State for the period February to July, 2003.

KVKs in Karnataka

5110. DR. VIJAY MALLYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government has approached the Central Government for financial assistance to set up eleven Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has also requested for financial support to set up an Agricultural College in Bijapur District;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.